



Navy to eliminate potential harm in groundwater

BY MCSN TIMOTHY MATTHEWS

With a focus on bettering the environment and eliminating potential harm to human health, the Navy, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, will implement a plan to clean up ground water in the area of the Commissary aboard Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek.

The process will begin in late February with work taking place outside of operating hours of the facility to minimize impact to store patrons. Scheduled work will be done between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. The Commissary store will maintain its normal operating hours and the clean up poses no harm to customers.

Known as Site 12 by the Installation Restoration

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New guided-missile destroyer Gridley commissioned

The Navy commissioned the newest Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, Gridley, Feb. 10, during a ceremony at the Port of Miami, in Miami, Fla.

Commander, U.S. Southern Command, Adm. James Stavridis, delivered the ceremony's principal address. Cathy W. Forst served as sponsor of the ship named for her great-great grandfather.

Gridley is the 51st of 62 Arleigh Burke class destroyers. The new destroyer honors Capt. Charles V. Gridley (1844-1898), who commanded the cruiser Olympia, which saw service from 1895-1922.

Olympia was the flagship of the Asiatic Squadron at the Battle of Manila Bay, which took place on May 1, 1898, during the Spanish-American War.

Commodore George Dewey's simple phrase permitting Gridley to open fire at Manila Bay, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," remains a famous moment in American naval history. Gridley died in Kobe, Japan, soon after the victory at Manila Bay.

Three previous ships have been named in honor of Gridley — a destroyer, 1919-1922; a destroyer, 1937-1946; and a guided-missile frigate, later reclassified to a guided-missile cruiser, 1963-1994.

Cmdr. Steve Shinego of Hallandale, Fla., is the first commanding officer of the ship and will lead the crew of 292 officers and enlisted personnel.

The 9,200-ton Gridley was built by Bath Iron Works, a company of General Dynamics, in Bath, Maine. The ship is 509.5 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 32 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots. The ship will be homeported in San Diego, Calif.



Photo by MCSN Kelvin Edwards

Crew members of fast-attack submarine Hampton tend to the lines as they prepare to depart from Norfolk Naval Station's Pier 3 for a six-month deployment to the Pacific Command area of responsibility. After the deployment, Hampton will return to its new home port of San Diego. Hampton is one of the first East coast fast-attack submarines to transfer to the Pacific submarine force.

Hampton deploys, changes home port

NORFOLK — Attack submarine Hampton deployed on a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the Pacific command area of responsibility, Feb. 16.

At the completion of Hampton's deployment, the submarine will return to its new homeport of San Diego as one of

the first East coast fast attack submarines to transfer to the Pacific submarine force.

In order to achieve the submarine distribution recommended in the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review of 60 and 40 percent (Pacific and Atlantic), Hampton, along with four other fast attack subma-

rines, will change their home port in 2007 and 2008.

Commander, Submarine Force recommended these changes in home port, after consultation with the entire Undersea Enterprise and approval of Chief of Naval Operations and concurrence of the Secretary of the Navy.

Troops become U.S. citizens in Iraq ceremony

BY SPC. AMANDA J. SOLITARIO

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — He has proudly called himself an American soldier for more than a year, and now he can finally call himself a citizen of the country he serves.

Army Spc. Sherif Z. Shalaby, a translator aide with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, was one of the more than 85 service members to gain their U.S. citizenship during a Feb. 11 naturalization ceremony here.

Shalaby said words can't describe the wealth of pride and excitement he felt as he raised his hand to take the oath of allegiance.

"It was really a great moment," the Egyptian native said. "I thought, 'You can't get back a moment like this.'"

Army Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command addressed the new American citizens.

"This is a defining moment in your life," he said. "America is now more than your home. America is your country."

Terry said that as citizens, the service members now have certain responsibilities they should take very seriously. Some of those include voting, performing jury duty and exercising their right to practice their religion.

The U.S. Constitution provides those rights, and is the reason America is different from any other country, Terry said.

"Becoming an American has nothing to do with birth or ancestry," he said to the service members. "That is because America is an idea, not a race."

Terry commended the service members on their citizenship as well as their military service. Shalaby was personally congratulated by his noncommissioned officer in charge, who escorted him from Camp Taji to Anaconda for the ceremony.

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Ceremony marks start of Patrol Coastal Squadron

BY MCSA KIESHIA SAVAGE

Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

VIRGINIA BEACH — The Navy's Surface Warfare Enterprise took another step forward when the Patrol Coastal Squadron was officially established during a stand up ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Feb. 15.

Class squadrons are functional command organizations specific to particular ship classes and are responsible for the manning, training, equipping and maintaining processes.

They execute the process of ensuring all ships within that particular class are at the right levels of combat readiness and available for tasking by combatant commanders.

The dividing of ships by

class allows the squadrons to more accurately assess readiness, examine class-wide trends, establish lessons learned and provide recommendations and solutions.

PCRon is one of four ClassRons immediately assuming responsibility for initial operational capabilities of the training, maintaining, manning and logistics of ships by class.

The remaining ClassRons are on schedule to become fully operational in late spring 2007.

Capt. Brian Goulding, commander, PCRon, said ClassRons will provide a worksite and improve the training process across the class of ships.

They will also monitor personnel skills required

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Photo by MC2 Elizabeth Williams

Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 14, Capt. Thomas Reese, discusses the newly formed Guided-Missile Frigate Class Squadron mission and capabilities. ClassRons will provide the Immediate Senior in Command and Type Commands with the ability to find process inefficiencies and provide the ability to apply resources to achieve a desired result.

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Hinder praises service members

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E-6 Advancement exam, March 1

Water: Cleaning up

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Program, the area encompasses what is now the parking lot of the base Commissary. The location was a former Navy Exchange dry cleaning and laundry facility that disposed of dry cleaning wastes including Tetrachloroethene into a storm water line adjacent to the former dry cleaning building. Due to disposal of these wastes, PCE is present in shallow ground water at concentrations that could be a potential risk to human health if the water were to be used as a drinking source.

The intent is to introduce compounds into the aquifer which will enhance the natural microbial biodegradation process of the contaminants.

The remedial action technology selected for groundwater clean up at the site is Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination, which is a process of injecting a substrate which promotes growth of naturally occurring microorganisms which in turn converts them into harmless compounds.

The injection substrate will consist of a mixture of Emulsified oil Substrate, vitamin B-12, sodium bicarbonate and water.

The first phase of the remedial action will be to install a network of groundwater wells that will be used to introduce the substrate in the aquifer, and monitoring the effectiveness of the ERD. The second phase of the remedial action will be to inject the substrate into the injection wells. Well installation and substrate injection activities are expected to be completed in approximately three months.

Groundwater sampling will be conducted to monitor the progress of the cleanup at intervals of one, three, six, nine and 12 months after the initial injection.

With being better educated regarding past environmental practices, the Navy is committed to restoring property on its facilities to exceed acceptable standards. The cleanup at NAB Little Creek is an example of the Navy's sound friendly stewardship of the environment.

Cutter conducts training at Little Creek

BY MC2 JOSEPH R. WAX

Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

VIRGINIA BEACH — The Coast Guard seagoing buoy tender Juniper, home ported in Newport, R.I., conducted under way training drills, Feb. 12.

The training was a part of a two week evolution from Feb. 5-16 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek by the Norfolk-based Afloat Training Group Atlantic. ATG assesses the ship's ability to conduct damage control, fire fighting, towing, anchoring, abandon ship, medical, loss of power, mooring and rescue and assistance drills.

"These two weeks ensure that their personnel have the proper training and can meet or exceed any challenges they may see day to day," said Coast Guard DC1 Eli Loftus, a damage control subject matter expert at ATG. "We have intense qualification standards. They're leaving here with the proper training to combat any casualty."

Both Navy and Coast Guard ATG members constantly evaluate cutters throughout the year. Each Coast Guard cutter is required to go through the ATG process every 12 months.

"For us this is a great opportunity," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Rick Wester. "Throughout the year we keep really busy. Taking these two weeks and focusing on the drills is a great way to continue to improve our readiness. ATG gives us insight into things we may be missing or helpful hints they have learned from



Photo by MCSA John K. Hamilton

Coast Guard sailors aboard buoy tender Juniper, conduct shipboard damage control training off the Virginia coast Feb. 12. Juniper, home ported in Newport, R.I., arrived at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Feb. 4, to begin a two week training evolution.

other ships."

Navy members of ATG offer the Coast Guard a unique perspective on their shipboard operations.

"The Navy riders help us out with a lot of specialized stuff like radio and classified equipment and with the medical portion," added Wester. "Since Sept. 11, our services are working closely together. Whether it is the Coast Guard helping the Navy with national defense or the Navy helping the Coast Guard with homeland security, any way we can continue to work together will only help us out."

ATG's training focuses not only on running drills cor-

rectly, but also getting everyone familiar with the different aspects of each drill.

"We want to ensure that junior people can stand up into a more senior role even though they haven't been to the school," Loftus said. "Because of a casualty at sea, it may become necessary."

To Wester, getting his people the experience they need is what these two weeks are all about.

"What we are really developing is our people," Wester said. "We can have all the machinery and electronics in the world, but in an emergent scenario it comes down to properly training your people

and making sure they know how to use the tools appropriately."

Coast Guard OSC Michael Padgett, a navigation and operation SME with ATG, said, Juniper was in good shape before the two-week training exercise, so they will leave as prepared as possible.

"The Juniper has been an excellent ship," said Padgett. "We started their training by going to their home port and doing a thorough inspection and they had very few discrepancies. It is one of the better I have seen in two and a half years on board. We aren't fixing problems so we could focus on the training."

Squadron: New unit

Continued from Page A1

to operate and monitor the maintenance statutes to keep ships ready.

"Through this process we may be able to gain some savings and help make more cost effective decisions," Goulding said.

Ships can also solve issues or problems at a lower level through this new concept.

"The ClassRon concept provides a central point for staff that are specifically focused on patrol coastal issues which helps to save time and money," said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Diebold, commanding officer, PC crew Kilo. "It allows the ClassRon to solve issues

with manning, personnel and equipment, and allows me to focus on war fighting, getting ready for deployments and do whatever tasking is put before me."

ClassRons are expected to improve future productivity and functionality due to a more knowledgeable crew.

"In the next year or so as ClassRons gain traction, we're going to see a better informed senior staff and Navy staff that will make better decisions about surface ships," Goulding said.

"We're hopeful that we can do more, and provide the same or better combat readiness at the right price," he added.

Citizenship: Service members take new oath

Continued from Page A1

"When I was naturalized, it was an appreciation of what I have been doing in the Army," Shalaby said.

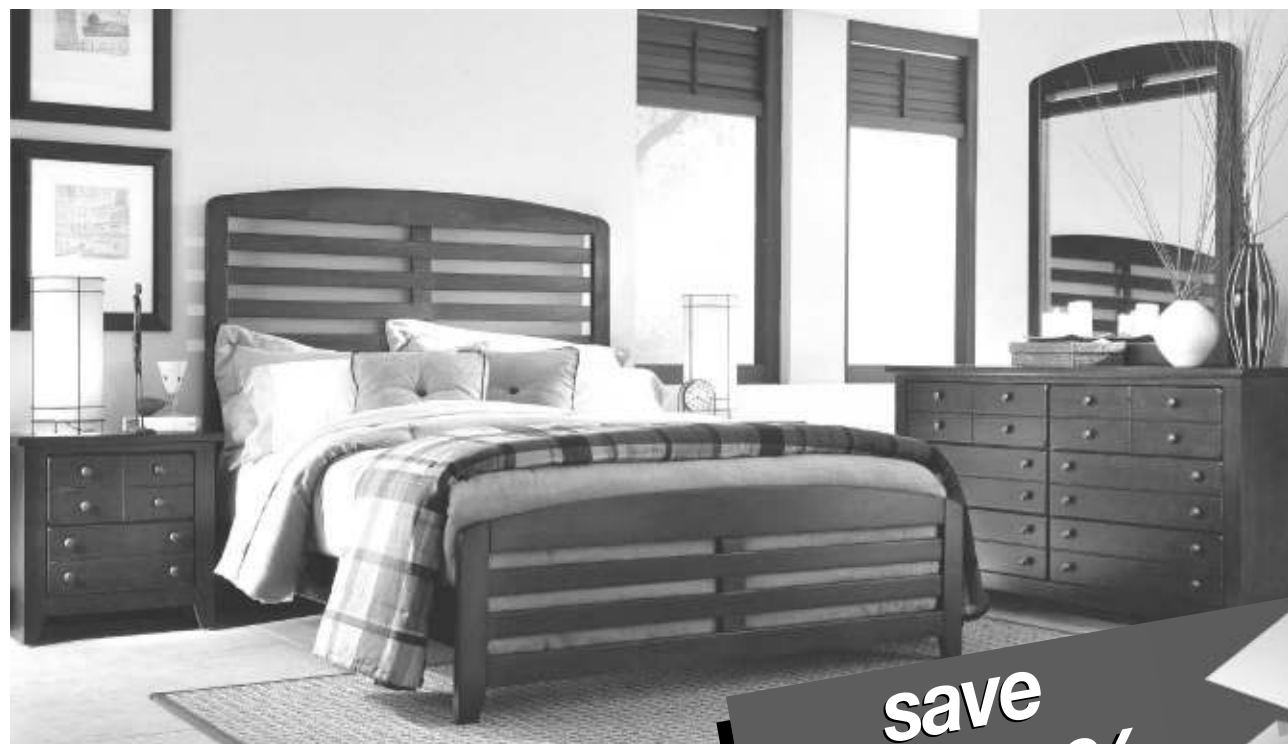
His new citizenship will open many

doors outside the military, Shalaby noted, but he said it has made him consider staying in the military long after his contract is up.

"I cannot deny that what happened this morning gave me a good motivation

to stay in the Army and make it a career," he said.

Army regulations requires soldiers to be U.S. citizens to remain in the military past the eight-year point of their service.



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